

In particular, 37 C.F.R. §1.73 only states that "[a] brief summary of the invention ... should preclude the detail description." 37 CFR § 1.73 does not state "must" or "shall." Accordingly, Applicant has elected not to include a "Summary of the Invention" as this is within the discretion of Applicant.

In the Office Action mailed March 15, 2002, the claims 1, 6, 12 were rejected as being considered unpatentable under 35 USC 102(b) over Bortolin et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,037,179 (hereinafter "Bortolin"). Claims 2-5, 7-11 and 13-15 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being considered unpatentable over Bortolin in view of Applicant's submitted prior art.

In the Office Action of March 15, 2002, in section 4, the Examiner states Bortolin et al. disclose a device comprising a fiber optic bundle having a termination block, an array waveguide having channels internally. The array waveguide positioned adjacent to the termination block, two pins each partially extending into both the termination block and the array waveguide.

Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's assertion.

In Applicant's specification, pages 1-2, Applicant has discussed an array waveguide ("AWG") comprising multiple channels 30 running through the AWG. For example, with respect to Figure 2, the specification describes an AWG comprising multiple channels. The AWG may comprise a glass, silicon, oxide or polymer substrate. The channels are made of materials having a slightly higher index of refraction than the rest of the AWG. Figure 2 shows a substrate having internal channels comprising a material that has a slightly higher index of refraction than that of the substrate. The higher index of refraction allows internal reflection to keep an optical signal within the channel. An AWG does not comprise fiber optics, and the specification has distinguished one from the other. (See Specification, pages 1-2).

Claim 1 claims a device comprising both a fiber optic bundle having a termination block and an array waveguide. Bortolin neither describes an array waveguide nor a device comprising a fiber optic bundle and an array waveguide as described in the specification.

Similarly, claims 6 and 12 describe methods of aligning a fiber optic bundle with an array waveguide. Bortolin does not describe an array waveguide nor a method of aligning a fiber optic bundle with an array waveguide.

Bortolin only describes a fiber optic bundle, i.e., a device comprising multiple optical fibers sandwiched together between multiple plates. Bortolin does not describe an array waveguide as described within the Specification, nor does Bortolin describe aligning a fiber optic bundle with an array waveguide.

Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1, 6, and 12 are allowable under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over Bortolin. Because claims 2-5, 7-11 and 13-15 depend directly or indirectly from claims 1, 6, or 12, Applicant submits that claims 2-5, 7-11 and 13-15 are also now allowable.

With regard to the Examiner's comments with respect to the rejection of claims 2-5, 7-11, and 13-15, the Examiner stated with respect to claim 3 and Figure 2, that Applicant's submitted art discloses an array waveguide with two holes (30) formed by an etch process. Applicant respectfully traverses this statement. The specification indicates that channels 30 are internal to a substrate. Although channels 30 may have been etched out, they have been filled with materials that allow an optical signal to propagate within the channels.

Applicant believes claims 1-15 are now allowable, and respectfully requests the Examiner to review the claims in light of the above remarks.

If there are any additional charges, please charge them to our Deposit Account  
Number 02-2666.

Very truly yours,

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